

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-02 DODE-00 IGA-01

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P 190545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 246

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 1161

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PINT, SA

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SURVEY

1. MORNING FEBRUARY 18 AMBASSADOR BRIEFED 12 MEMBERS OF SURVEY TEAM WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN THE KINGDOM. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH DEPUTY MININTERIOR MUHAMMED BIN ZARAH AND THE HEADS OF MAJOR SECTIONS OF THE MINISTRY FOR INITIAL "GET-ACQUAINTED" SESSIONS. TEAM WILL BREAK UP TO MEET WITH COUNTERPARTS FEBRUARY 19.

2. ACTING TEAM LEADER DAVENPORT STILL IN BEIRUT BECAUSE OF EXPIRED VISA BUT WE EXPECT HE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY. SITUATION MAY IMPROVE AFTER DAVENPORT'S ARRIVAL, BUT IT ALREADY EVIDENT THAT PRESENCE OF TEAM LEADER REQUIRED FOR SMOOTH CONDUCT OF SURVEY. SAUDIS ALSO DISAPPOINTED TEAM LEADER NOT HERE AND AWAITING HIS EARLY ARRIVAL. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TEAM MEMBERS THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT IF HARDIN'S HEALTH HAD NOT IMPROVED WITHIN A FEW DAYS GOIN WOULD HIMSELF COME TO SAUDI ARABIA TO ASSUME TEAM LEADERSHIP. THIS DECISION SOULD NOT BE PUT OFF. WE HOPE HARDIN NOW ABLE TO TRAVEL, BUT IF NOT, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT GOIN COME TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. PLEASE INFORM.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLIES FOR SURVEY TEAM HAVE NOT ARRIVED. PLEASE SEND AIRWAY BILL OF LADING NUMBER.

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4. DUE TO LATE START IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ALL OF TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH THEIR PORTIONS OF SURVEY BEFORE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED MARCH 31 DATE FOR THE END OF SURVEY TEAM ACTIVITIES IN THE KINGDOM. WE TRUST THAT CONTINUING TEAM ACTIVITIES BEYOND MARCH 31 WILL NOT CAUSE UNMANAGEABLE CONGRESSIONAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES. PLEASE INFORM IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

5. IN INITIAL MEETING BIN ZAFAH SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE COAST GUARD MEMBER JOIN THE TEAM. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM A NAME AND AN EARLY ETA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AKINS

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